



IPW

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Ryoji WATANABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2852

Application No.: 10/647,292

Examiner: P. MACKEY

Filed: August 26, 2003

Docket No.: 116940

For: POSTPROCESSING APPARATUS AND POSTPROCESSING METHOD

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

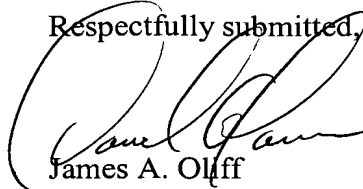
In reply to the December 14, 2004 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species I, Figure 9A, with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 and 12-15 are readable on the elected species and that claims 1-8 and 15 are generic to all species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid

unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 13, 2005

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